



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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**Inquiry:** Is it okay for RCPs to administer erythromycin ointment to the newborns after delivery?

**Response:** The intent of the Respiratory Care practice act recognizes the existence of overlapping functions between physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, and other licensed health care personnel to permit additional sharing of functions within organized health care systems (3701, Article 1, General Provisions). This provision is not specific to respiratory functions and was intended to allow greater functionality within a licensed health care facility. Because of this provision, the delivery of non-respiratory medications including ophthalmic ointment would qualify as an overlapping function and is considered acceptable.

Reference #: 2005-C-16